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HOUSE BILL NO. 1283

Originated in House  Clerk

HOUSE BILL NO. 1283

AN ACT ENTITLED THE "MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL SAFETY ACT OF 2019"; TO AMEND SECTION 37-11-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP AND CONDUCT AN ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL WITHIN THE FIRST 60 DAYS OF EACH NEW SCHOOL SEMESTER FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF AND TO REQUIRE ALL SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND CIVILIAN RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS (CRASE) TRAINING ANNUALLY; TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-83, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL INCLUDE A PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT A DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-5; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL EMPLOYEES TO COMPLETE A TRAINING OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE IN MENTAL HEALTH EVERY TWO YEARS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-93, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO DEVELOP A CURRICULUM, TRAIN AND CERTIFY THREAT ASSESSMENT OFFICERS; TO REQUIRE CERTIFIED THREAT ASSESSMENT OFFICERS TO CONDUCT ANNUAL INSPECTIONS AND THREAT ASSESSMENT OF EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE, DEVELOP AN IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR EACH SCHOOL INSPECTED AND PROVIDE REPORTS OF SUCH FINDINGS TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD WITHIN FOUR WEEKS OF COMPLETION; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 37-3-89, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-91, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXPAND STUDENT ACCESS TO LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES UNDER THE REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE STANDARDIZED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND FACILITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO INCLUDE REFERRAL PROTOCOLS AND TO TRAIN SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO CONDUCT INITIAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS OF STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE STRESS OR ARE AT RISK OF HARM; TO AMEND SECTION

37-3-82, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES IN SCHOOLS (MCOPS) PROGRAM; TO CODIFY SECTION 95-15-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RAISE STATEWIDE AWARENESS REGARDING THE "SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING ACT" AND PROVIDE IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY FOR GOOD FAITH REPORTING OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OR BEHAVIOR; TO AMEND SECTION 45-1-2, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION CENTER (MSAIC FUSION CENTER) IN THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND TO EMPLOY REGIONAL ANALYSTS DEDICATED TO STATEWIDE SOCIAL MEDIA INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM THREATS AND THE DISSEMINATION OF SCHOOL SAFETY INFORMATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. This act shall be entitled and may be cited as the "Mississippi School Safety Act of 2019."

SECTION 2. Section 37-11-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-11-5. It shall be the duty of the principals and teachers in all public school buildings to instruct the pupils in the methods of fire drills and to practice fire drills until all the pupils in the school are familiar with the methods of escape. Such fire drills shall be conducted often enough to keep such pupils well drilled. It shall be the further duty of such principals and teachers to instruct the pupils in all programs of emergency management as may be designated by the State Department of Education.

(2) It shall be the further duty of such principals and teachers to develop and conduct an active shooter drill within the

first sixty (60) days of each new school semester for students, teachers and staff.

SECTION 3. Section 37-3-83, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-3-83. (1) There is established within the State Department of Education, using only existing staff and resources, a School Safety Grant Program, available to all eligible public school districts, to assist in financing programs to provide school safety. However, no monies from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant may be used for the School Safety Grant Program.

(2) The school board of each school district, with the assistance of the State Department of Education School Safety Center, shall adopt a comprehensive local school district school safety plan and shall update the plan on an annual basis.

(3) Subject to the extent of appropriations available, the School Safety Grant Program shall offer any of the following specific preventive services, and other additional services appropriate to the most current school district school safety plan:

(a) Metal detectors;

(b) Video surveillance cameras, communications equipment and monitoring equipment for classrooms, school buildings, school grounds and school buses;

(c) Crisis management/action teams responding to school violence;

(d) Violence prevention training, conflict resolution training, behavioral stress training and other appropriate training designated by the State Department of Education for faculty and staff; and

(e) School safety personnel.

(4) Each local school district of this state may annually apply for school safety grant funds subject to appropriations by the Legislature. School safety grants shall include a base grant amount plus an additional amount per student in average daily attendance in the school or school district. The base grant amount and amount per student shall be determined by the State Board of Education, subject to specific appropriation therefor by the Legislature. In order to be eligible for such program, each local school board desiring to participate shall apply to the State Department of Education by May 31 before the beginning of the applicable fiscal year on forms provided by the department, and shall be required to establish a local School Safety Task Force to involve members of the community in the school safety effort. The State Department of Education shall determine by July 1 of each succeeding year which local school districts have submitted approved applications for school safety grants.

(5) As part of the School Safety Grant Program, the State Department of Education may conduct a pilot program to research

the feasibility of using video camera equipment in the classroom to address the following:

- (a) Determine if video cameras in the classroom reduce student disciplinary problems;

- (b) Enable teachers to present clear and convincing evidence of a student's disruptive behavior to the student, the principal, the superintendent and the student's parents; and

- (c) Enable teachers to review teaching performance and receive diagnostic feedback for developmental purposes.

- (6) Any local school district may use audio/visual-monitoring equipment in classrooms, hallways, buildings, grounds and buses for the purpose of monitoring school disciplinary problems.

- (7) As a component of the comprehensive local school district school safety plan required under subsection (2) of this section, the school board of a school district may adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children, to be known as "Erin's Law Awareness." Any policy adopted under this subsection may include or address, but need not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Methods for increasing teacher, student and parental awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children, including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse;

(b) Educational information for parents or guardians, which may be included in the school handbook, on the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance, referral or resource information;

(c) Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse;

(d) Age-appropriate curriculum for students in prekindergarten through fifth grade;

(e) Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse should take to obtain assistance and intervention;

(f) Counseling and resources available for students affected by sexual abuse; and

(g) Emotional and educational support for a child who has been abused to enable the child to be successful in school.

(8) As part of the school safety grant program, the State Department of Education shall establish three (3) pilot programs in six (6) school districts utilizing an evidence-based curriculum to provide students in Grades K-5 with skills to manage stress and anxiety in order for them to be better equipped to handle challenges in a healthy way and build resiliency. The Mississippi Department of Mental Health shall be responsible for the selection of the content of the evidence-based curriculum. The results of this pilot program shall be measured and reported, and such results shall be used in consideration of the implementation of this curriculum statewide.

(9) As a component of the comprehensive local school district safety plan required under subsection (2) of this section, beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, the State Department of Education shall require local school districts to conduct, every two (2) years, refresher training on mental health and suicide prevention for all school employees and personnel, including all cafeteria workers, custodians, teachers and administrators. The Mississippi Department of Mental Health shall be responsible for the development and/or selection of the content of the training, which training shall be provided at no cost to school employees. School districts shall report completion of the training to the State Department of Education.

SECTION 4. Section 37-3-93, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-3-93. (1) Subject to the availability of funding specifically appropriated for such purpose, there is established a School Crisis Management Program under the State Department of Education. This program is to be initiated and executed by the department using only existing staff and resources. Under this program, the State Department of Education shall create an office making available a quick response team of personnel trained in school safety and crisis management to respond to traumatic or violent situations that impact students and faculty in the public schools in Mississippi. The required School Crisis Management Program shall operate in accordance with the following:

(a) The basic response team shall consist of those personnel designated by the State Superintendent of Public Education, or their designees, depending on the size of the school and the nature of the event.

(b) In order to access the services of a response team, the request must be made by the local school principal or the superintendent of schools, who shall make the request to the State Department of Education or its contact designee.

(c) A response team shall enter a school to work with students and faculty for a period of no more than three (3) days, unless otherwise requested by the school district.

(d) The State Department of Education, or its designee, shall operate a toll-free incoming wide area telephone service for the purpose of receiving reports of suspected cases of school violence and other traumatic situations impacting on students and faculty in the public schools.

(e) The request made by a school district to access the services of a response team following a school safety incident may seek a review of the local school district's safety plan, and the results of this evaluation may be published by the local school board in a newspaper with wide circulation in the district.

(f) Subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated therefor by the Legislature, the expenses of the quick response teams and their administrative support shall be provided from state funds. The State Department of Education may

apply for and expend funds for the support and maintenance of this program from private and other funding sources.

(2) Local school districts, school superintendents and principals may request and utilize the services of quick response teams provided for under this section; however, this section does not require school officials to request the services of quick response teams.

(3) As a component of the School Crisis Management Program, the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security shall develop a curriculum, train and certify threat assessment officers. A certified threat assessment officer shall conduct an annual inspection and threat assessment of each public school in the state. The threat assessment officer shall develop an improvement plan for each school inspected. The assessment shall include the inspection of surveillance equipment and building-specific floor plans. The findings of the inspection and threat assessment, including a copy of the improvement plan shall be provided to local law enforcement agencies and the local school board within four (4) weeks of completion.

SECTION 5. Section 37-3-89, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

37-3-89. The State Board of Education, acting through the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development, shall require each educator preparation program in the state, as a condition for approval, to

include a course or courses on school discipline or classroom management as a required part of the teacher education program. All school discipline or classroom management courses offered by a teacher education program shall be approved by the Educator License Commission.

SECTION 6. Section 37-3-91, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-3-91. (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for such purpose, the State Department of Education may establish regional behavioral institutes for the purpose of providing state-of-the-art training to teachers and administrators in discipline and classroom management strategies and behavioral health screenings for students.

(2) Any school district may volunteer to participate in a regional behavioral institute. However, the State Department of Education may require a school district to participate in a regional behavioral institute if the department determines that such participation is in the best interest of the school district based upon:

(a) Complaints received and determined by the department to be valid which relate to disciplinary problems in the school district;

(b) Any visit to the school by representatives of the department which indicates disciplinary problems in the school district; or

(c) A review of reports submitted by a school district to the department which indicates disciplinary problems in the school district.

(3) Effective with the 2019-2020 school year, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health shall develop a standardized Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to be utilized by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health certified mental health providers and mental health facilities in providing mental health services to local school districts. The MOU shall include standardized behavioral health screening and referral protocols, procedures and forms to be utilized by the local school districts. Any standardized behavioral health screening and referral protocols shall only be performed on students with the approval of the student's parent or legal guardian. The Mississippi Department of Mental Health shall provide online training for appropriate school personnel to conduct initial behavioral health screenings of students experiencing or exhibiting behavioral stress or at risk of harming themselves or others.

SECTION 7. Section 37-3-82, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-3-82. (1) There is hereby established the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant program in the State Department of Education to provide funding, pursuant to specific appropriation by the Legislature therefor, to assist law enforcement agencies in providing additional School

Resource Officers to engage in community policing in and around primary and secondary schools. The MCOPS program shall authorize the State Department of Education to make grants to increase deployment of law enforcement officers in order (a) to increase or enhance community policing in this state, (b) that trained, sworn enforcement officers assigned to schools play an integral part in the development and/or enhancement of a comprehensive school safety plan, and (c) that the presence of these officers shall provide schools with a direct link to local law enforcement agencies.

(2) The MCOPS program shall meet the following requirements and standards:

(a) This program shall provide an incentive for law enforcement agencies to build collaborative partnerships with the school community and to use community policing efforts to combat school violence and implement educational programs to improve student and school safety.

(b) The additional School Resource Officers must devote at least seventy-five percent (75%) of their time to work in and around primary and secondary schools, in addition to the time that School Resource Officers are devoting in the absence of the MCOPS in Schools grant.

(c) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the MCOPS in Schools program shall provide a * * * minimum state contribution of up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per

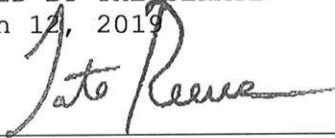
Information Center (MSAIC Fusion Center) which shall be the highest priority for the allocation of available federal resources for statewide information sharing, including the deployment of personnel and connectivity with federal data systems. Subject to appropriation therefor, the Mississippi Fusion Center shall employ three (3) regional analysts dedicated to analyzing and resolving potential threats identified by the agency's statewide social media intelligence platform and the dissemination of school safety information.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2019.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 6, 2019


SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PASSED BY THE SENATE
March 12, 2019


PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR

March 29, 2019

9:36 AM